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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
17 June 1953

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RHEE REJECTS EISENHOWER'S 6 JUNE PROPOSALS

In a 17 June letter to President Eisenhower, President Rhee refused to accept the armistice terms in return for US offers of economic aid, an increase in the South Korean defense forces, and a postarmistice mutual security pact. He argued that they "come as a price" for South Korea's acceptance of a truce.

Calling a truce as presently proposed a "death warrant" for his country, Rhee said that the value of a military pact, in view of the nature of the proposed armistice, would diminish "almost to a vanishing point." He charged that the "counsels of the appeasers" had prevailed in the alteration of the US armistice position.

Comment: This letter indicates that Rhee desires first, to secure a bilateral pact on his own terms which would in no way limit ROK freedom of action, second, to blame the US for "forcing" him into accepting an armistice and third, to hold the US responsible for future developments that prove unfavorable to South Korea. In the process, he apparently hopes to derive whatever benefits the US has or may offer him while in no case ever committing himself to acceptance of a truce.

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